



## **Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of**

**Date:** February 27, 2014

**To:** Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee and Members of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee

**Referral to:** City Council

**Subject:** Amendment to the 2014 City of Minneapolis State Legislative Agenda

**Recommendation:** Approve amendments to the City of Minneapolis' 2014 State Legislative Agenda as follows:

In the City Livability support section (p. 12), add:

"Legislation to legalize the medicinal use of marijuana for authorized individuals with a debilitating medical condition."

### **Department Information**

Prepared by: Sasha Bergman, Government Relations Representative, IGR Department Approved by: Gene Ranieri, Director, IGR Department Presenters in Committee: Sasha Bergman, Government Relations Representative, IGR Department
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### **Supporting Information Background:**

In the 2013 legislative session, multiple bills have been introduced that would legalize the use of medical marijuana for certain qualifying patients that have debilitating medical conditions. In 2009, a bill allowing medical marijuana use passed the House and Senate but was vetoed by former Governor Tim Pawlenty.

According to research conducted by Minneapolis Health Department staff, there are 20 states plus the District of Columbia that allow the use of medical marijuana. While the research literature is mixed, studies indicate that cannabis can act as a remedy for conditions including inflammation, pain, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, glaucoma, vomiting due to chemotherapy, epilepsy, AIDS, and others. Although opponents of medical marijuana have raised concern about increased marijuana use among adolescents, a recent study showed that medical marijuana laws in Montana, Rhode Island, Michigan, and Delaware did not affect frequency of adolescent use of marijuana.

In addition, since 1995 there have been at least 21 national public opinion polls that have found a majority of respondents in favor of medical marijuana, ranging from 60-80%. In addition, a recent poll conducted in Minnesota by the Star Tribune shows that more than half of Minnesotans favor the legalization of marijuana for medical use.